



Steel pan at the Aruba Entertainment Center was sensational!

Each year of Carnival has seen new events added to the schedule of the many “happenings” that are this week-long celebration. There are queen competitions, parades, jump-ups and one event after another that consist of music, dancing and celebration. Last year the Carnival Committee SAC introduced a new event based on an age old and popular tradition, steel pan music. The sound of steel pan is synonymous with the Caribbean, and the Aruba's Steelband and Showband Concert that took place in the Aruba Entertainment Center on Thursday night featured some of the island's finest performers in this fine art, hosted by Aruba's “Mr. Carnival” Yubi Naar. A number of Carnival Queens graced the concert with their presence, Youth Queen Hillyann Croes, Carnival Queen Michelle Vingal, Mrs. Carnival, who just won her crown the night before, Jelisse Boekhoudt, and visiting from Holland, the Queen of the Summer Carnival of the Netherlands, Ismarra Thomas.

As Yubi introduced the various musical groups, he gave some interesting commentary as to many of the origins of Carnival traditions. Eight steel pan groups provided lovers of this music with an enjoyable evening. All Star Steel Band opened and closed the show, with Steel Sensation, Bito and the Boys, Choncho Boekhoudt, Touch Steel, Magic Steel, and the North Stars Steel Band all providing their own unique interpretations of this versatile Caribbean music, which can be lively or mellow.

It was a beautiful evening of music that is characteristic of the islands, and an integral part of Carnival, and if you missed the show, perhaps you will be fortunate enough to hear some of the performers during the Grand Parade!